



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Military Department
Office of Emergency Management
PO Box 14370
Salem, OR 97309-5062
Phone: (503) 378-2911
Fax: (503) 373-7833
TTY: (503) 373-7857

February 1, 2022

Representative Barbara Smith Warner, Chair
Representative Vikki Breese-Iverson, Vice Chair
Representative Julie Fahey, Vice Chair
House Committee on Rules
900 Court Street NE
Room 333 State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chairperson:

The Office of Emergency Management respectfully submits the below testimony in response to the -1 Amendment to HB 4087.

The Office of Emergency Management takes No Position on HB 4087 or the -1 Amendment.

The -1 Amendment replaces the Oregon State Police with the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) in Section 2, line 32. The associated responsibilities within Section 2 remain unchanged in that OEM will be responsible for the following:

“The Office of Emergency Management shall convene a committee composed of equal numbers of news media and public safety agency stakeholders to develop the following voluntary guidelines for implementing section 1 of this 2022 Act:

(a) Recommendations for essential elements of basic fire and natural disaster site safety training for news media representatives that satisfies the training described in section 1 (3) of this 2022 Act;

(b) Examples of when circumstances warrant denial of access on grounds of compromising the safety of emergency response personnel, impeding the response of emergency equipment or personnel, protecting the privacy of victims of a wildfire or natural disaster or impeding the investigation of an incident that constitutes the scene of a wildfire or natural disaster;

(c) Examples of when public bodies, as defined in ORS 174.109, may require news media representatives to provide and use their own personal protective equipment and may prescribe circumstances when particular types of personal protective equipment may be required; and

(d) Examples of when public bodies should conduct safety briefings for news media representatives and the recommended content of safety briefings”

While OEM would be responsible for convening the Committee if this legislation becomes law, the Committee itself would be responsible for developing recommendations and issuing a report to the House Committee on Rules prior September 1, 2022.

Further, the bill in Section 2 (4) does not require any public body, to include OEM, to issue or track credentials associated with news media representatives. This legislation does not require OEM to develop or provide training to news media representatives and continues to place the authority for access control to areas that may be closed to the general public with the Incident Commander, which is consistent with current practice.

At this time OEM does not expect a Fiscal Impact associated with this legislation, but that is subject to change should recommendations issued in the required Committee report necessitate additional resources.

Thank You,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andrew J. Phelps". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "A" and "P".

Andrew J. Phelps
Director